

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 151030Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3768

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

US MISSION OECD PARIS UNN

UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0106

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, LU

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON ENERGY
CONFERENCE

1. ON RETURNING TO LUXEMBOURG ON FEBRUARY 14, FOREIGN
MINISTER THORN GAVE THE LOCAL PRESS HIS IMPRESSIONS OF
THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. THORN OBSERVED THAT
FRANCE "WAS NOT COMPLETELY WRONG" IN CERTAIN PRIOR
RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WASHINGTON MEETING, BUT HE
CHARACTERIZED LAST WEEK'S AGREED EC POSITION PAPER AS THE
MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TO ALL AND NOT PROOF THAT FRANCE HAD
WON OVER ITS EC PARTNERS TO PARIS' WAY OF THINKING. THE
EC TEXT "PAPERED OVER" REAL INTERNAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE
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PARTNERS AND CAME APART RAPIDLY IN WASHINGTON. THORN

IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THE EC NOT TO HAVE ESTABLISHED A COMMON POSITION AT ALL UNLESS ALL WERE CONVINCED OF ITS MERIT AND PREPARED TO DEFEND IT TOGETHER. THORN CRITICIZED THE RIGIDITY OF EC PROCEDURES WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE NINE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY AS A GROUP IN A RAPIDLY EVOLVING CONFERENCE SITUATION. CONDEMNING THOSE WHO WOULD FORCE A CHOICE BETWEEN "ATLANTICISM" AND EUROPE, THORN OBSERVED THAT "ATLANTIC TIES HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED FOR US, BUT NO REAL EUROPEAN OPTION EXISTED IN WASHINGTON. THE NINE HAD NO COMMON ENERGY POLICY, AND DURING THE OIL CRISIS, FRANCE HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THE NINE TO TAKE COMMON MEASURES".

2. THORN BLAMED THE FRENCH AND THE BRITISH FOR PREVENTING THE EC FROM ADOPTING A COMMON ENERGY POLICY, AND HE NOTED THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE ORIGINAL EC COMMISSION PROPOSALS ON ENERGY AND THOSE FIRST ADVANCED BY THE US. HE SAID THAT THE CRISIS WITHIN THE EC IS "SERIOUS BUT NOT DRAMATIC" AND HE CALLED ON THE NINE NOT TO DELUDE THEMSELVES INTO BELIEVING THAT SEVERAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS AND A COUPLE OF NEW TEXTS WILL REMEDY THE ERRORS COMMITTED BY THE EC IN WASHINGTON. THORN SAID THAT THE MOMENT HAD COME TO MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO MAKE THE EC WORK, AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE NINE REALLY SHARE THE SAME VISION OF A FUTURE EUROPE. TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS CHOICE ONLY GUARANTEES "AN ABYSMAL FUTURE FOR THE EC".

3. THORN CONCLUDED WITH A COMMENT THAT "FRANCE IS NOW MORE ALONE THAN BEFORE. I HOPE THAT SHE IS AWARE OF THIS, AND AWARE AS WELL OF EVERYTHING HER PARTNERS DID TO TRY TO REACH A COMMON OPENING POSITION FOR THE WASHINGTON MEETING". THORN WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE FOR THE MINORITY TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON THE MAJORITY IN THE EC. HE OBSERVED THAT IF EVERYONE AGREED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS, THEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NINE TO REACH COMMON POLICIES WHICH ALL WOULD STOUTLY DEFEND. IF THE TENSIONS AMONG THE NINE AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE EC OF THE NEED TO AGREE ON REALISTIC COMPROMISES, THORN COMMENTED THAT EUROPE MIGHT ONE DAY BE GRATEFUL FOR THE CRISIS

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PROVOKED BY THE ENERGY MEETING. TARNOFF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, ENRGY, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LUXEMB00106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUXEMBOURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740229/aaaabbjd.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, LU, US, FR, UK, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005